2016 United States Postage Stamps

Quilled Paper Heart
January 12
The U.S. Postal Service began the year by issuing the 44th stamp in the Love Stamp Series — the Quilled Paper Heart. The image on the stamp is a heart, created by using the ancient art of quilling (the art of curling narrow strips of paper, laying them on their edges, and gluing them in place to form designs.) Postal Service Corporate Communications Vice President Janice Walker dedicated the stamp, noting that “Our beautiful Quilled Paper Heart Forever Love stamp evokes tranquility, peace and love as Americans correspond with beloved friends and family while away from home. And they’re perfect for Valentine’s Day cards.” The Quilled Paper Heart stamps were available on panes of 20.

La Cueva del Indio
January 17
In 2008, the U.S. Postal Service began the American Landmarks Series of high value stamps for use on Priority and Express Mail parcels. The image on this Priority stamp, La Cueva del Indio, or Cave of the Indian, is an addition to that series. The cave, which is located on Puerto Rico’s north coast, gets its name from the many engravings, known as petroglyphs, found on the walls. The cave is a protected Natural Reserve, managed by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.

Columbia River Gorge
January 17
Another stamp issued as part of the American Landmarks Series was the Columbia River Gorge — a stamp issued for use on Priority Mail Express parcels. The gorge is nearly 80 miles long, forming the border between Oregon and Washington. The image on the stamp shows the historic Vista House located atop Crown Point, 725 feet above the river. The gorge is part of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area which is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

10¢ Pears
January 17
Pears are one of the world’s oldest cultivated fruits. They are also one of the most popular fruits in the world — eaten poached, baked, or straight off the tree. This definitive stamp, which features two red pears on a white background, was only available in rolls of 10,000.

Botanical Art
January 29
During the late 1800s and early 1900s, people began to realize the joy of ornamental and recreational gardening. The Botanical Art stamps depict flowers originally illustrated on an American nursery catalog printed between the years of 1891 and 1912. Shown on the stamps are petunias, tulips, corn lilies, roses, dahlias, Japanese irises, and jonquils. The Botanical Art stamps were available in booklets of 10 and 20 stamps. “Forever” was printed at the top of each stamp, a value of 47¢ when issued.

With 30,000 members, the 130-year-old American Philatelic Society is the largest, nonprofit society for stamp collectors in the free world. APS offers services and educational opportunities to broaden your enjoyment of the hobby and enhance your special collecting interests, whatever they may be. The APS is supported by membership dues, gifts, and the sale of its publications and services.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Quilled Paper Heart
January 12

10¢ Pears
January 17

La Cueva del Indio
January 17

Columbia River Gorge
January 17

Botanical Art
January 29
2016 United States Postage Stamps

U.S. Flag  
January 29
The U.S. Postal Service tells us to “celebrate ‘Old Glory’ with this new patriotic U.S. Flag stamp.” The Flag Act in 1777, proclaims that the U.S. flag should consist of 13 alternating red and white stripes — representing the original 13 states. At that time there were also 13 white stars on a blue field. In 1818, legislation was passed stating that the number of stars should match the number of states. Today there are 13 stripes and 50 stars on the U.S. flag. These flag stamps were available in books of 10 and 20, or rolls of 100.

Richard Allen  
February 2
Richard Allen (1760–1831) is the 39th stamp in the Black Heritage series. This issue coincided with the 200th anniversary of the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. After purchasing his freedom from slavery, Allen became a minister. In 1794, he founded the Bethel Church in Philadelphia, PA; however, it was controlled by white church leaders. In 1816, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, declared that the church could be independent of the white leaders and it became the AME Church. The stamps were printed in panes of 20.

Year of the Monkey  
February 5
The Lunar New Year is the most important holiday of the year for many Asian communities. The U.S. Postal Service helped ring in the Year of the Monkey by issuing this stamp as part of the Celebrating Lunar New Year series. Those born under this sign are said to be clever, wise, and honest, and can easily adapt to new situations. The U.S. Postal Service introduced its Celebrating Lunar New Year series in 2008 and will continue it through 2019. This year’s stamp was available in panes of 12.

Grapes  
February 19
The U.S. Postal Service issued a 5¢ definitive stamp depicting two clusters of deep purple grapes growing on the vine. Grapes can be eaten fresh, dried to produce raisins, or crushed to make juice. The type of grape shown on this stamp can be found growing in the northern U.S. states. The stamps were available in rolls of 500 and 10,000.

The Moon  
February 22
In 2013, the U.S. Postal Service began issuing the Global Forever stamps. These round stamps can be used to mail a one-ounce letter to countries outside of the United States. This issue featured the Earth’s only natural satellite — the Moon. Lunar phases have influenced people, socially, spiritually, and mythologically, throughout history. This stamp was available in panes of 10. When printed, the stamp's value was $1.15.

Sarah Vaughan  
March 29
Sarah Vaughan (1924–1990) was honored on this issue of the Music Icons series. Vaughan is remembered for her operatic voice as she sang songs such as “Send in the Clowns,” and “Key Largo.” In 1989, she received the Jazz Masters Award — the highest honor in jazz music. The pane of 16 stamps is designed to resemble a 45 rpm record sleeve. The front included the stamps and text about Vaughan's career with an image of a record peeking out the top of the sleeve. The reverse featured the logo for the Music Icons series and a list of Vaughan's most popular songs.

Shirley Temple  
April 18
Shirley Temple Black (1928–2014) was depicted on the 20th stamp of the Legends of Hollywood series. She starred in her first full-length movie at six years old and went on to pursue a career in public service and international affairs. The stamp art is based on a 1935 image from Curly Top, one of the child star's iconic movie roles. The selvage features a publicity photo from the 1933 short film “Managed Money.” The Temple artwork is based on photos copyrighted by Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation”. The stamps were sold in panes of 20 stamps each.

USA Nonprofit  
April 28
The bright lettering and star gave this stamp a playful look to one of our most recognized abbreviations — USA. “NONPROFIT ORG” is printed across the bottom of the stamp. It had a value of 5¢ when issued. The USA stamp was issued in coils of 10,000.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

- U.S. Flag
  - January 29

- Richard Allen
  - February 2

- Year of the Monkey
  - February 5

- Grapes
  - February 19

- The Moon
  - February 22

- Sarah Vaughan
  - March 29

- Shirley Temple
  - April 18

- USA Nonprofit
  - April 28
2016 United States Postage Stamps

The stamps on this page were issued during World Stamp Show-NY 2016 — held in New York City from May 28–June 4, 2016

World Stamp Show-NY 2016
May 28
The U.S. Postal Service helped celebrate the World Stamp Show, held in New York City, with these intricately designed stamps. The design is reminiscent of the U.S. newspaper and periodical stamps, and the banknotes of 1865. These were available in a folio of two panes (12 stamps each) — one pane featured red stamps surrounded by a blue selvage, while on the other pane the stamps were blue and with a red selvage.

Repeal of the Stamp Act 1766
May 29
In 1765, Great Britain passed a Stamp Act, forcing a tax to be paid on many paper materials, such as newspapers, legal documents, mortgages, contracts. Colonists began to boycott all British goods, as they felt this was “taxation without representation.” In 1766 the Stamp Act was repealed. This postage stamp, issued by the U.S. Postal Service, shows people gathered around a “liberty tree,” celebrating the repeal. The selvage area displays a proof print of a one-penny revenue stamp and includes a famous slogan from the era: “Taxation without representation is tyranny.” The stamps were available in souvenir sheets of 10.

Honoring Extraordinary Heroism: The Service Cross Medals
May 30
This set of stamps recognizes one of the highest levels of military honor for courage and bravery — braving enemy fire, making bold decisions, and taking selfless actions to rescue or protect fellow service members. Shown on the stamps are the Distinguished Service Cross (Army), Navy Cross (Navy and Marine Corps), Air Force Cross, and Coast Guard Cross. The stamps are sold on panes of 12 (3 of each cross.)

Views of Our Planets
May 31
Thanks to unmanned spacecraft and powerful telescopes, we are able to view the planets of our solar system more clearly than ever before. The U.S. Postal Service has issued stamps showing the magnificence of each of the planets. These were available on panes of 16 (each stamp is shown twice.) The text on the reverse of the pane explained what these images reveal and identified the spacecrafts and powerful telescopes that helped obtain them.

Pluto–Explored!
May 31
Pluto–Explored! was issued as a souvenir sheet of four stamps — two stamps show the New Horizons spacecraft, the other two show close-up images of Pluto taken by the spacecraft. Especially of interest were the data and images NASA received from the onboard instruments when New Horizons made its closest flyby of Pluto in July 2015. Pluto–Explored! was only available on a souvenir sheet of 4 stamps.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

World Stamp Show-NY 2016
May 28

Pluto–Explored!
May 31

Repeal of the Stamp Act 1766
May 29

Views of Our Planets
May 31

Honoring Extraordinary Heroism: The Service Cross Medals
May 30
Classics Forever
June 1
The U.S. Postal Service issued this souvenir sheet of 6 stamps to celebrate the history of U.S. postage stamps. The images on the stamps are versions of stamps issued in the 1800s. They are (from top, left to right): George Washington, first issued in 1851 at 12 cents; Benjamin Franklin, first issued in 1851 at one cent; George Washington, first issued in 1860 at 24 cents; George Washington, first issued in 1860 at 90 cents; Abraham Lincoln, first issued in 1866 at 15 cents; and Benjamin Franklin, first issued in 1861 at one cent. The selvage of the souvenir sheet is composed of postal cancellations and script from envelopes of the same time period. The words “CLASSICS FOREVER” are at top and bottom of the sheet and the words “THE CLASSIC ERA” on each side. The Classics Forever stamps were only available on the souvenir sheet.

Colorful Celebrations
June 3
The U.S. Postal Service issued 10 stamps inspired by papel picado — a Mexican art of pierced, or perforated, paper. These designs usually depict flowers, birds, or other geometric shapes crafted on tissue paper. The Colorful Celebrations were available in booklets of 20 (2 stamps of each image.)
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Classics Forever
June 1

Colorful Celebrations
June 3
National Parks Centennial
June 2

The National Parks stamps celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The sheet shows (top row, left to right): Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska; Mount Rainier National Park, Washington; “Scenery in the Grand Tetons” (Albert Bierstadt, artist), an oil on canvas painting located at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Vermont; Bass Harbor Head Light at Acadia National Park, Maine (David Muench, photographer). Second row, left to right: “The Grand Canyon of Arizona, from Hermit Rim Road” (Thomas Moran, artist), Arizona; Assateague Island National Seashore, Virginia and Maryland. Third row, left to right: Balclutha, a ship at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, California; Arches National Park, Utah; Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota; Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens, Washington, D.C. Fourth row, left to right: Administration Building at Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico; Everglades National Park, Florida. Fifth row, left to right: Haleakalā National Park, Hawaii; Yellowstone National Park, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming; Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico; Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi. The image at the center of the sheet is a detail of the 1-cent Yosemite stamp issued in 1934.

These stamps were only available on the souvenir sheet of 16 stamps.
Our national parks tell distinctly American stories. Whether they inspire you to marvel at grand vistas, travel along scenic waterways and winding paths, or visit historic buildings and homes, discovery and exploration await.

National Parks Centennial
June 2
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Indiana Statehood
June 7
The U.S. Postal Service honored the 200th anniversary of the state of Indiana with this stamp — in 1816, it became the 19th state to enter the Union. The state has one of the world’s greatest industrial centers along Lake Michigan, is a leader in agriculture, and is a large producer of limestone and coal. One of the largest caves in the United States, Wyandotte Cave, is located here, as well as other attractions such as Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. This forever stamp was available in panes of 20.

Eid Greetings
June 10
The 2016 Eid stamp was a continuation of the Holiday Celebrations series. The stamp commemorates the two most important festivals — or eids — in the Islamic calendar: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. On these days, Muslims wish each other “Eidukum Mubarak,” (may your Eid be bountiful or blessed) the phrase shown in Islamic calligraphy on the stamp. The olive branch symbolizes abundance, family, hospitality, and peace. The stamps were available in panes of 20.

Soda Fountain Favorites
June 30
Soda fountains, often located at a lunch counter inside a drugstore, became popular in the late 1800s. A “soda jerk” would mix carbonated water with syrups and ice cream to create fizzy treats, or serve the ice cream as a separate treat. These stamps, which were available in convertible booklets of 20, depict some of those treats — a doublescoop ice cream cone, an egg cream, a banana split, a root beer float, and a hot fudge sundae.

Star Quilts
July 6
These non-denominated stamps were issued for presorted first class usage. Each stamp shows an Amish-made quilt featuring the colorful eight-point Lone Star design. Also known as the Mathematical Star, the Star of the East, and the Morning Star, the quilts are made by stitching small pieces of fabric together to create the design. The Star Quilts stamps are available in coils of 3,000 and 10,000. They were valued at 25¢ when issued.

Jaime Escalante
July 13
Jaime Escalante (1930–2010) was a high school math and physics teacher, who introduced ways of teaching “unteachable” students to master calculus. He became known nationwide with the movie “Stand and Deliver” which was based on 14 of his Mexican-American, low income students who were accused of cheating on an Advanced Placement Calculus Exam. This forever stamp was available in panes of 20.

Pickup Trucks
July 15
The 1938 International Harvester D-2, with its barrel-shaped grille; the 1953 Chevrolet with its grille that “bulged” in the middle; the 1948 Ford F-1 with a five-bar grille and a “Million Dollar Cab; and the 1965 Ford F-100 with a grille that had “boxed” openings were featured on this set of stamps. These rugged, but reliable, work vehicles were available on double-sided booklets of 20 stamps each.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Indiana Statehood
June 7

Eid Greetings
June 10

Soda Fountain Favorites
June 30

Star Quilts
July 6

Jaime Escalante
July 13

Pickup Trucks
July 15
Henry James
July 31

Henry James (1843–1916) was chosen to be honored on the 31st stamp in the Literary Arts series. His massive writings covered short stories to full novels; non-fiction; plays, and narratives. Many of James’ writings drew Americans and Europeans together in love affairs — often depicting strong, independent women who were betrayed by men or other women. The stamps were available in sheets of 20.

Pets
August 2

Pets bring companionship to the young and old alike. Shown on the double-sided booklet of 20 stamps were pictures of puppies, betta fish, iguanas, hamsters, gold-fish, parrots, guinea pigs, tortoises, rabbits, kittens, corn snakes, mice, hermit crabs, chinchillas, gerbils, dogs, parakeets, horses, cats, and geckos.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Henry James
July 31

Pets
August 2
**2016 United States Postage Stamps**

**Songbirds in Snow**  
*August 4*

Who doesn’t appreciate watching a golden-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, northern cardinal, or red-breasted nuthatch coming into a backyard bird feeder? The U.S. Postal Service tells us “Each of these four new stamps celebrates a different songbird that brightens cold winter days.” The stamps were available in a double-sided booklet of 20 stamps.

---

**Apples**  
*August 12*

The image on a new 1¢ definitive stamp was a pair of Newtown pippin (also known as Albemarle pippin) apples. These flavorful apples are especially good in pies, applesauce, and cider. They were available in coils of 3,000 and 10,000.

---

**Patriotic Spiral**  
*August 19*

The Patriotic Spiral stamps were issued as a symbol of our nation’s hope for a more perfect union. The red and blue stars represent each state in the Union, while the gold star (representing one nation) is kept safe by those fifty orbiting around it. These were available in booklets of 10 or coils of 10,000 stamps.

---

**Star Trek**  
*September 2*

*Star Trek* first appeared on television on September 8, 1966. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the U.S. Postal Service issued four stamps: the Starship Enterprise inside the outline of a Starfleet insignia, a crewman in a transporter, the Enterprise as seen from above, and the Enterprise shown inside the outline of the Vulcan salute (Spock’s iconic hand gesture.) The words “SPACE...THE FINAL FRONTIER” appear in the selvage beneath the stamps. The stamps were in available on panes of 20.

---

**Eastern Tailed Blue Butterfly**  
*September 24*

In 2011, the U.S. Postal Service and the greeting card industry connected to make it easier to mail those oversized and square cards. The greeting card industry prints an image of a butterfly on envelopes that need additional postage. The Postal Service began issuing butterfly stamps at that rate. The Eastern tailed-blue butterfly was the sixth in a series of the non-machineable stamps. The stamp was valued at 68¢ when issued and was available in panes of 20.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Songbirds in Snow
August 4

Apples
August 12

Patriotic Spiral
August 19

Star Trek
September 2

Eastern
Tailed Blue Butterfly
September 24
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Jack O’Lanterns
September 29
As early as the 1800s, the Irish would carve ugly faces on vegetables (often turnips, potatoes, or beets.) They would carry these as lanterns or set them on a window sill to keep the supernatural beings away. Not long after, the tradition of carved pumpkins came to be symbols of Halloween in the United States. The Jack-o’-Lanterns are the first Halloween-themed stamps to be issued by the U.S. Postal Service. They were available in double-sided booklets of 20 stamps.

Kwanzaa
October 1
The U.S. Postal Service continued its tradition of the Holiday Celebrations series with this colorful Kwanzaa stamp. Commemorating its 50th anniversary, this holiday honors the African-American family, community, and culture. It is characterized by three primary colors: red indicates the blood shed during struggles endured by those of African descent, black symbolizes the African people, and green signifies growth and renewal. This sixth stamp design in celebration of Kwanzaa was available in panes of 20 stamps.

Diwali
October 5
Diwali is important to several religions. Some honor Indian Emperor Ashoka’s conversion to Buddhism; to others it is the celebration of Mahavira’s liberation from the cycle of life and death; to many it is the celebration of Hargobind’s freedom from captivity; some honor the return of Rama; while others commemorate Vishnu’s decision to make King Bali ruler of the underworld. To all Diwali is a celebration of good over evil. The U.S. Postal Service honored Diwali with a pane of 20 stamps, a part of the Holiday Celebration series.

Wonder Woman
October 7
Wonder Woman is 75 years old! Yes, Wonder Woman became a Super Hero in 1938, ready to rule with her fearless, but peaceful ways. This fictional character is a founding member of the Justice League and a warrior princess of the Amazonian people. At home she is known as Princess Diana of Themyscira, but to the outside world she has taken on the identity of Diana Prince. The stamps, which depicted her during four different time periods, were available in panes of 20 stamps.

Holiday Windows
October 6
When releasing the Holiday Windows stamps, the U.S. Postal Service noted “Nothing compares to the tranquil calm of a winter evening after the snow has fallen and the sun has set. Whether you enjoy viewing the peaceful scene from a cozy spot indoors or feeling the chill on your face outside, these brief moments remind us of what makes this time of year so special.” The four winter scenes — a single burning candle, a simple star ornament, a brightly lit Christmas tree, and a wreath hanging on a windowpane — were available in a double-sided booklet of 20 stamps.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Jack O’Lanterns
September 29

Kwanzaa
October 1

Diwali
October 5

Holiday Windows
October 6

Wonder Woman
October 7
Florentine Madonna and Child  
October 18

When the public pressured the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to issue a Christmas stamp, they first decided on one that depicted a wreath and candles. However, they were questioned “How could you issue a stamp to commemorate Christmas without addressing the central theme of religion?” Their next attempt was an image of a church weather vane in the shape of the angel Gabriel blowing a trumpet — a stamp that might be considered religious. This did not end the controversy because stamp collectors, as well as the general public, were looking for a Christmas stamp with a religious image. CSAC found the answer — stamp images based on paintings of the Madonna and Child would not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. In 1966, the United States Post Office Department issued the first Madonna and Child stamp.

A tradition that continues today, the U.S. Postal Service issued this Christmas stamp featuring a detail of the a 15th-century painting, Florentine Madonna and Child which was available in double-sided booklets of 20 stamps.

Hanukkah  
November 1

The U.S. Postal Service celebrated Hanukkah with an addition to the Holiday Celebrations series. The image depicts a menorah set in front of a window. Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The menorah is one of the most recognizable and widespread symbols of Jewish culture and tradition in the world. The stamps could be purchased in panes of 20 stamps.

Nativity  
November 3

The Gospel of Luke tells how Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to register for the census decreed by the Roman emperor. While there “she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” The U.S. Postal Service celebrated Christmas with a stamp that depicted a traditional Nativity scene — baby Jesus in a manger with Mary and Joseph by his side. The stamps were available in booklets of 20 stamps.
2016 United States Postage Stamps

Florentine Madonna and Child
October 18

Hanukkah
November 1

Nativity
November 3
This album may not include every issue. Use the blank pages to add stamps to your album.

Stamps in this album are shown courtesy of the American Philatelic Society Reference Collection, created and sustained through the generosity of APS members.

Membership in the American Philatelic Society provides many benefits, including:

- **Website** — Find dealers and stamp clubs, get new issue information, view online exhibits and much more.
- **The American Philatelist** — The world’s premier stamp magazine written by our members for our members.
- **Monthly E-Newsletter** — With hobby news and tips.
- **APEX Expertizing Service** — Offers guaranteed opinions on the genuineness of all stamps by our committee of experts.
- **Research Library** — Access to the largest public philatelic library — books, journals, archives, exhibits, government documents, and digital versions with mail and e-mail delivery service.
- **APS Stamp Insurance Plan** — The best and most comprehensive coverage available — low cost for members and quality service, too.
- **Education Programs** — Summer Seminar, On-the-Road Courses, and Internet-based courses — learning never ends, sign up today! Many publications are also available for purchase.
- **Quick I.D.** — Helps identify that troubling stamp at a substantially lower cost than the formal certification process.
- **Circuit Sales** — $8,000,000 inventory awaits your requests — mini-stamp stores delivered to your front door!
- **Internet Sales** — Buy/Sell online — more than 300,000 items. New items added every business day!
- **Youth Programs** — Young Stamp Collectors of America, All-Star Stamp Club program — support for the individual young collector or leaders of local youth clubs.
- **Take advantage of fellow members expertise** — Use the Translation Service and the Committee for the Care and Preservation of Philatelic Material.
- **Chapters & Affiliates** — Join local clubs or national organizations based on your collecting interests.
- **Discounts** — APS members receive discounts on publications, Expertizing and Quick ID, exhibiting at APS shows, Affinity programs, and more.

Stay connected with the APS through our web and social media sites

www.stamps.org